

Message Text

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14-11

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9681

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, UV

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT LAMIZANA COMMENTS ON ECOWAS SUMMIT

1. PRESIDENT LAMIZANA RETURNED FROM ECOWAS SUMMIT MAY 29 AND HELD PRESS CONFERENCE LATER SAME DAY TO DISCUSS RESULTS OF MEETING. PRESIDENT SAID THAT UPPER VOLTA, AS "CENTER AND HEART" OF WEST AFRICA IS FAVORABLE TO ANY REGIONAL ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS AS ITS GOAL PROMOTION OF HARMONIOUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. CONCERNING CEAO, LAMIZANA STATED THAT THIS ORGANIZATION HAS "THE MERIT TO EXIST AND BE OPERATIONS; BOTH CEAO AND ECOWAS MUST CO-EXIST."

(COMMENT: LOCAL PRESS CITED RELATIONSHIP OF BENELUX TO

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EEC AS POSSIBLE EXAMPLE OF FUTURE TIES. END COMMENT) PRESIDENT

WAS CAREFUL TO POINT OUT THAT FINAL COMMUNIQUE PRESERVED EXISTENCE OF CEAO AS WELL AS OTHER REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

2. COMMENT: MEMBER OF PRESIDENT'S PARTY TOLD EMBOFF THAT UPPER VOLTA'S SIGNATURE OF FINAL TREATY WAS LARGELY PRO-FORMA. HE IMPLIED VOLTANS COULD HARDLY ABSTAIN FROM SIGNING TREATY WITH ITS GENERAL LANGUAGE SINCE TO DO SO WOULD BE LIKE BEING AGAINST AFRICAN EQUIVALENTS OF APPLE PIE AND MOTHERHOOD. SOURCE SAID REAL KEY TO ANY FUTURE VOLTAN PARTICIPATION WOULD BE OPERATING PROTOCOLS WHICH WILL SPELL OUT IN DETAIL HOW ECOWAS WILL FUNCTION.

3. ALTHOUGH VOLTANS EMERGED FROM SUMMIT WITH MUCH BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF ECOWAS, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF THEIR BASIC VIEWS HAVE CHANGED MUCH. BOTH PRESIDENT AND MINISTER OF FINANCE GARANGO FAVOR GRADUALIST, STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH ESPOUSED BY CEAO. END COMMENT.
DUMAS

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